

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND  
THE SURGEON

I daresay my readers will naturally ask what I saw of Mr. Lincoln, our President, who will go down to posterity as one of the great personages of history. Over and over again, I was presented to him on official occasions, and once I amputated at the shoulder joint, the arm of a soldier at a hospital in Washington, which the President was visiting at the time. He was greatly interested, but evidently had little fondness for surgery. At the conclusion of the operation, a younger surgeon, who had been watching me, expressed with some enthusiasm and in a voice audible to the President, his congratulations upon the operation, and I remember well being startled by the voice of the President behind my back, making the solemn inquiry, "But how about the soldier?"

From Brinton, J. H.: *Personal Memoirs*. New York, Neale,  
1914, p. 265.